

Remarks

The following remarks are submitted to be fully responsive to the Office Action mailed March 15, 2006. It is further submitted that this response is timely filed within the three-month shortened-statutory period. Should any other fee be required, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Kagan Binder Deposit Account No. 50-1775 and thereafter notify us of the same. Reconsideration of all outstanding grounds of the rejection and allowance of the subject application are believed in order and respectfully requested.

Please amend claims 1, 2, 10, 22, 32, and 39 as set forth above. Also, please cancel claims 3-9, 11-21, 23, 29-31, 38, and 40-42 and add new claims 43-46.

In the Official Action, the drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). It is respectfully submitted that the drawings clearly illustrate the claimed invention. For example, Figures 1 and 2 clearly illustrate a first address region having first and second panels, 30 and 46, a second address region having first and second panels, 34 and 48, and a postage region having first and second panels, 32 and 48. Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 3 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. It is respectfully submitted that the present amendments to the claims obviate the rejection, withdrawal of which is respectfully requested.

As to the prior art rejections, the pending claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by one or more of U.S. Patent No. 3,545,669 to Kinkade et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,052,613 to Lin, U.S. Patent No. 5,213,258 to Kim, and International Publication No. WO 93/19991 to Husnu.

In response, independent claim 1 is amended to recite the subject matter of dependent claims 3 and 9. Because dependent claim 3 was not rejected as anticipated by the Husnu reference, amended claim 1 cannot be anticipated by this reference and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 as anticipated by the Husnu reference is respectfully requested. Also, because dependent claim 9 was not rejected as anticipated by any of the Kinkade et al., Lin, and Kim references, amended independent claim 1 and

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the dependent claims thereof cannot be anticipated by these references and withdrawal of the anticipation rejection over these references is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 22 is amended to recite the subject matter of dependent claims 23 and 27. Because dependent claim 23 was not rejected as anticipated by the Husnu reference, amended claim 22 cannot be anticipated by this reference and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested. Also, because dependent claim 27 was not rejected as anticipated by any of the Kinkade et al., Lin, and Kim references, amended independent claim 22 and the dependent claims thereof cannot be anticipated by these references and withdrawal of the anticipation rejection over these references is respectfully requested.

The remaining independent claims, 32 and 39, are rejected as anticipated by the Kim and Husnu references. As amended, claims 32 and 39 recite a reusable envelope comprising an envelope body comprising a panel having a plurality of tear-off portions and a reusable sealing flap. Neither of the Kim and Husnu references teach or suggest such a reusable envelope and cannot anticipate claims 32 and 39. The Kim reference discloses an envelope having a tear-off face 17 and teaches removing the entire face of the envelope to remove the primary address, return address, and postage. Accordingly, the Kim reference does not teach, disclose, or otherwise suggest plural tear-off portions. The Husnu reference discloses an envelope having a reusable flap and a single tear-off portion. This reference does not disclose, teach, or otherwise suggest plural tear-off portions as presently claimed and cannot anticipate or render obvious claims 32 and 39. Withdrawal the Kim and Husnu rejections is therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims and the present application are now in condition for allowance, which allowance is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned, at the Examiner's convenience, should the Examiner have any questions regarding this communication or the present patent application.

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Respectfully Submitted,

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